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CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. Since its forty-fifth session the Commission and its secretariat, in response to Commission decision O (45), have further strengthened their co-operation and co-ordination of activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, including bodies of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and with their secretariats. This co-operation and co-ordination has become an important feature of the Commission's methods of work, to ensure the optimium use of resources and expertise and to avoid duplication of activities. The wide range of organizations with which ECE co-operates, as shown in the summary presentation in Annex I, reflects its dual role as a body of the United Nations and as a European institution.

2. The ECE and the European Community co-operate closely in many aspects of the Commission's programme of work. At the secretariat level the Executive Secretary has continued his regular contacts with the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). During his visits to the headquarters of the European Community he held talks with a number of Commissioners and other senior officials. Discussions focused on ways of enhancing co-operation between the two secretariats and of facilitating the participation of the EEC in the work of the ECE. In February 1991 the Executive Secretary held further consultations in Brussels. These resulted in agreement on ways to broaden co-operation including the participation of the ECE secretariat in the

activities of the Group of 24 to co-ordinate western assistance to countries in transition to a market economy and the readiness of the CEC to consider the provision of some measure of financial support for the ECE programme of workshops to assist countries in transition. The ECE secretariat attended meetings of the G-24 Working Parties on Energy and the Environment. These policy-level discussions have been and will be supplemented by meetings at the technical level between substantive divisions dealing with transport, environment, economic analysis, statistics and energy.

3. Several meetings have taken place between the Executive Secretary and his senior staff and the Secretary-General of the OECD, the Assistant Secretary-General heading the Centre for Economies in Transition and other senior OECD staff. In November 1990 the Executive Secretary participated in a round-table organized on the occasion of the OECD Conference on Transition to a Market Economy in Central and Eastern Europe. In January 1991 he participated, together with the Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division, in the OECD Environment Committee, held at the ministerial level, which "urged OECD to strengthen its co-operation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe to pursue regional environmental policy co-ordination, including the possible conduct of policy reviews.". An agreement, in principle, was reached between the Executive Secretary and the Executive Director of the IEA to co-operate on energy-related problems affecting countries in transition. In October 1990 the Executive Secretary and the Director of the Transport Division participated in the Ministerial Session of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), in which Ministers of Transport from central and east European countries participated.

4. In June 1990 the Executive Secretary visited the Council of Europe where he held discussions with the Secretary-General and senior officials. In November 1990 further discussions were held, and in December 1990 the Executive Secretary and the Director of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division participated in a Pan-European Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests hosted by the Council of Europe. In January 1991 the Executive Secretary addressed a meeting of the Environment Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In the same month the Deputy Executive Secretary attended a Council of Europe ministerial meeting on international migration from eastern to western Europe. Representatives of the Council's Economic Committee have visited the ECE secretariat.

5. In September 1990 the Secretary-General of EFTA and several senior staff visited ECE for discussions with a view to strengthening co-operation, in particular on issues of interest to EFTA member countries and countries in transition.

6. The Executive Secretary and his staff have held consultations during the year with their counterparts in the World Bank and the IMF. The Executive Secretary has established contact with the Secretary-General of the EBRD through a preliminary exchange of letters and received assurances of the new Bank's interest in co-operation with ECE.

7. The above-mentioned consultations were supplemented in the course of the year when senior ECE staff met their counterparts in other international economic organizations at meetings organized by third parties.

8. Within the United Nations system the secretariat has maintained close contacts with senior officials of the following: UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, INSTRAW, FAO, World Bank, IMF and IAEA, as well as with other regional commissions and offices at Headquarters responsible for global programmes in the economic field. (For more detailed information, see Annex I and other reports before the Commission).

9. The ECE has worked particularly closely with FAO. Periodic consultations at the senior management level have continued with a view to enhancing the substantive work of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division. Officers of the Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Timber Committee participated in meetings of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) respectively with a view to strengthening co-operation in these fields. On the initiative of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, an ad hoc ECE/FAO Working Group met in September 1990 to draft proposals for strengthening co-ordination in the field of agriculture and for avoiding duplication. These proposals were followed by the Committee when revising its programme of work in March 1991 and will also be considered by the ECA at its session in July 1991. The Timber Committee and the EFC have agreed to hold the next joint session in 1993. Consultations between ECE and FAO are under way concerning preparations for the 18th FAO Regional Conference for Europe to be held in 1992.

10. In response to resolution 1 (45), the secretariat continued to carry out activities relevant to the provisions of the Concluding Documents of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE and of the CSCE Meetings held in Sofia on the Protection of the Environment, in Bonn on Economic Co-operation in Europe and in Palma de Mallorca on the Mediterranean. These documents, and also the Paris Charter for a New Europe, stressed, inter alia, the need for effective co-ordination of the activities of a number of organizations. The Executive Secretary and his senior staff have consulted extensively with the staff in other international organizations with that in view. (For a more detailed account see document E/ECE/1243).

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11. As requested in paragraph 2 of decision O (45), brief reports on the ECE's co-operation and co-ordination of activities with the above-mentioned organizations and institutions are provided below for the priority areas of activity of the Commission as well as the "Energy Efficiency 2000" project.

(a) Environment

12. The European Economic Community (EEC), as a Party to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), actively participates in its implementation. It also participates in the International Co-operative Programmes on Air Pollution Effects (EMEP) established under the Convention. In particular, the EEC Directorate-General for Agriculture implements an annual forest health survey based on the manual developed for this purpose under the Convention. The EEC participates in the EMEP monitoring programme with a station at Ispra (Italy). Close methodological harmonization will be required and has been the subject of discussion over the last year between the CORINAIR monitoring programme, to be carried out by the new European Environmental Agency, and EMEP.

13. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) participates in EMEP by making the necessary meteorological data available and by encouraging the participation in EMEP of competent national meteorological services.

14. The World Health Organization (WHO) provides information on health-related aspects of air pollution within the framework of the LRTAP Convention for regular review by its Executive Body.

15. In order to strengthen activities to control airborne marine pollution in a subregional context, co-operation is being established between EMEP and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), on the one hand, and EMEP and the Paris Commission for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (PARCOM), on the other.

16. ECE is the executing agency for a UNDP-sponsored project on environmental planning and management for air pollution aiming at facilitating the European IPF countries to obtain information on relevant technologies and standards for the reduction of air pollution from stationary sources.

17. The CEC provided the facilities for the first session of the Working Group entrusted with the elaboration of the Convention on the Transboundary Impacts of Industrial Accidents (Brussels, June 1990). The OECD was represented at that session and played an active role. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are considering, in close co-operation with appropriate international bodies such as the European Environmental Agency, possibilities for improving the procedures used to monitor the state of the environment throughout the ECE region. The EEC signed the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context which was adopted at the fourth session of the Senior Advisers.

18. Steps have been taken by the Senior Advisers to extend the systems and practices established by the OECD for its member countries to the ECE region as a whole as regards the management of chemicals, economic instruments and environmental policy performance reviews. In the preparation of the proposals presented to the Senior Advisers, consultations took place between ECE and OECD staff. The OECD prepared a document on "Activities of the OECD in the field of environment and economics" for the first meeting of the ECE Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics. In 1991 a workshop will be organized by the Government of Hungary, under the auspices of the Joint Working Group and in co-operation with the OECD, on the costing and funding of environmental policies in the context of competing priorities with special reference to countries in transition. An Ad hoc Meeting on Economic Instruments will be held, in co-operation with OECD, in December 1991.

19. Due account is being taken of the Council of Europe's activity on nature conservation in the promotion of ECE programmes on flora and fauna. An ECE Code of Practice for the conservation of threatened animals and plants, which is under elaboration, is expected, inter alia, to facilitate the implementation of the goals of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has closely co-operated with the ECE in the preparation of the European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants, which is before the Commission for adoption.

(b) Transport

20. Pursuant to paragraph 2 II (f) of decision O (45), the Executive Secretary has consulted closely with the secretariats of other international organizations to avoid duplication in areas of mutual interest.

21. The continuous updating and adjustment of regulatory material elaborated within the framework of the Inland Transport Committee calls for the direct involvement of national and international transport authorities. This is particularly the case with activities related to the construction of vehicles, the transport of dangerous goods and road safety. Close co-operation has also been maintained between the EEC and the ECE in studying the evolution of East-West traffic flows as a consequence of the changes taking place in eastern and central Europe. This co-operation should contribute to shaping the investment policy implemented by international financial institutions in eastern and central Europe.

22. The aim of the ongoing revision of the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), in co-operation with the EEC, is aimed at elaborating a single social régime covering European road haulage.

23. The EEC is financing a major study on the impact of the growing volume of container traffic and will submit a report to the ECE seminar on that subject, to be held in 1992.

24. The ECE and the CEC are both active in the field of customs co-operation and are co-operating in the elaboration of proposals to facilitate the smooth crossing of frontiers in Europe.

25. The secretariat maintains a regular exchange of information with the secretariat of the ECMT, and co-operates closely with them in such areas as combined transport, transport economics, road safety, etc.

26. There is a regular exchange of information between the organizations concerned on questions of transport economics and transport development trends. The participation of representatives of these organizations in each others' meetings as well as regular contacts between the secretariats contribute to reducing duplication of activities and to their co-ordination.

(c) Statistics

27. Co-ordination of international statistical activities at the world level is assured through the United Nations Statistical Commission and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities. The heads of statistical divisions of the specialized agencies and regional commissions are members of the ACC Sub-Committee. Representatives of the OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Community (EUROSTAT) participate in its meetings.

28. The Conference of European Statisticians is responsible for co-ordinating statistical activities in the ECE region. In addition, the ECE is represented in the biannual meetings of the Directors-General of National Statistical Institutions of the European Community (DGINS) and the CEC Statistical Programme Committee.

29. Co-operation on statistical activities between the ECE, the EEC and the OECD is further assured through the European Comparison Programme, and the Intersecretariat Working Groups on National Accounts on Environmental Data and on Energy Statistics. As a result of the work of the latter group, in which the UN Statistical Office, ECE, IEA/OECD and EUROSTAT participate, a common questionnaire has been elaborated to obtain statistics on coal and manufactured gas. The ECE is considering ways of achieving closer co-operation in other areas, such as transport statistics, statistics on services and social and demographic statistics.

30. In March 1990 an Intersecretariat Working Group on Co-ordination of Statistical Activities by International Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe was created under the auspices of EUROSTAT with the participation, inter alia, of the UN Statistical Office, the ECE, OECD, the World Bank, IMF and the ILO. Meetings of this Working Group were held back-to-back with the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians in June 1990. The Working Group also met on the occasion of the OECD Conference on Statistics of Central and East European Countries, organized jointly with ECE in September 1990, and the Conference on Economic Statistics for Economies in Transition, in February 1991. The ECE Newsletter on Transition Projects provides members of the Group and national statistical offices with information on ongoing and planned transition projects. Contributions to the Newsletter are provided by other international organizations and national statistical offices. In addition, EUROSTAT intends to develop a database in this field.

(d) Trade facilitation

31. In paragraph 2 IV (d) of decision O (45), the Executive Secretary was invited to co-operate and co-ordinate with the other regional commissions of the United Nations and with other international organizations active in the field of trade facilitation, and was requested to submit proposals for an interregional project to the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures and to the Commission.

32. In response to this request, the secretariat prepared a draft proposal for interregional co-operation in the area of trade facilitation and, in particular, the phased application of EDIFACT wherever appropriate (TRADE/WP.4/R.734), which was submitted to the Working Party in March 1991. Furthermore, trade facilitation, including a draft proposal on an EDIFACT interregional project, was an item on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions in March 1991.

33. With respect to EDIFACT development work and promotion, the CEC provides strong support through its TEDIS programme. TEDIS has also commissioned a number of studies on a variety of issues which are of direct interest to UN/EDIFACT work, such as legal aspects of electronic data interchange (EDI) and its implications for small- and medium-size enterprises.

(e) Economic analysis

34. In paragraph 2 V (c) of decision O (45), the Commission emphasized the need for close co-operation with the European Community and with the other international institutions dealing with economic research and analysis,

including the IMF, IBRD, EBRD, GATT and, in particular, the OECD in order to avoid duplication of efforts, and to determine the areas in which each organization had a special competence.

35. Given its concentration of work on development issues and policies in Europe and North America, and especially on problems faced by the former centrally planned economies in their transition to market-based economies, major efforts have been made by the ECE to establish effective means of co-operation with the CEC, OECD and EFTA and, more recently, with the EBRD. A preliminary framework has been the subject of discussions between the ECE and the OECD and EFTA for co-ordinating all work concerning economies in transition. Similar arrangements are being explored with the CEC and EBRD. Regular working contacts have continued with other international organizations, notably with the World Bank and the Bank for International Settlements.

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36. The project "Energy Efficiency 2000" - an ECE-wide campaign to reduce the energy efficiency gap between member States - was launched in early 1991. This project originated from the Regional Follow-Up Conference on the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, held in Bergen (Norway) in May 1990. A number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are presently involved in this project, including the World Bank, UNIDO, IAEA, EEC and IEA, all of which participated in the recent ECE meeting on the project and contributed to its further elaboration. The project has also been introduced in other fora, particularly in the Group of 24.

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37. The Commission and its subsidiary bodies have continued to benefit from the co-operation of a large number of international non-governmental organizations, many of a highly technical nature, during the period since the forty-fifth session of the Commission. A list of such organizations is given in Annex II.

ANNEX I

Programme category	United Nations	Specialized Agencies	Intergovernmental Organizations	Secretariat co-operation
Policy and co-ordination of the work of the Commission	World Food Council (WFC) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) UN Environment Programme (UNEP) UN Development Programme (UNDP) UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	International Labour Organisation (ILO) Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) European Economic Community (EEC) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	Council of Europe (CE) European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Development issues and policies	UNCTAD, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNCSDHA)	ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO	CMEA, EEC	CE, EFTA
Agriculture	International Trade Centre (ITC)	FAO, World Health Organization (WHO)	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), CMEA, EEC	OECD

Programme category	United Nations	Specialized Agencies	Intergovernmental Organizations	Secretariat co-operation
Timber	UNCTAD, UNEP	ILO, FAO, UNIDO	GATT, EEC, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	OECD
Environment	UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNIDO, World Bank	IAEA, GATT, CMEA, EEC	CE, EFTA, OECD, International Energy Agency (IEA/OECD), Nordic Council, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Oslo/Paris Commission, European Investment Bank, Nordic Investment Bank
Human Settlements	HABITAT	ILO, WHO	EEC	CE, OECD, World Tourism Organization (WTO), Nordic Council of Ministers
Industrial development:				
Chemicals	UNEP	ILO, World Bank	GATT, CMEA, EEC	OECD
Engineering industries & automation		ILO, WHO, UNIDO	CMEA, EEC	OECD, International Federation of Robotics (SFR)
Steel	UNCTAD	ILO, UNIDO, World Bank	GATT, EEC, CMEA	OECD, Intermetall, SEAISI, IISI
Trade	UNCTAD, UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)	IMO, UNIDO, IBRD, IMF	GATT, CMEA, EEC, Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), Central Office for International Railway Transport (OCTI)	EFTA, OECD

Programme category	United Nations	Specialized Agencies	Intergovernmental Organizations	Secretariat co-operation
Standardization			International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)	
Energy, (including Coal, Electric Power and Gas)	ESCWA, UNCTAD, UNDP	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, UNIDO, World Bank	IAEA, CMEA, EEC	IEA/OECD
Science and technology	UN Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), Office of the UN Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)	UNESCO, UNIDO	CMEA, EEC	OECD
Transport, Communications and Tourism	UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP, UNCSDHA	ILO, FAO, WHO, IBRD/IMF, IMO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	CMEA, EEC, Danube Commission (DC), European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), CCC, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Commission on the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Central Office for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), OCTI, International Institute for Refrigeration (IIR), WTO	CE, OECD
Statistics	UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP, UN International Research & Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IBRD, IMF, WMO,	CMEA, EEC, Inter-American Development Bank,	OECD, IEA/OECD, Nordic Statistical Secretariat, CE, HELCOM

ANNEX II

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CO-OPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

CATEGORY I

International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Women
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Organization for Standardization
World Federation of Trade Unions

CATEGORY II

Greenpeace International Council
International Air Transport Association
International Association of Ports and Harbours
International Bar Association
International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association
International Chamber of Shipping
International Civil Airports Association
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation
International Council of Environmental Law
International Electrotechnical Commission
International Federation for Housing and Planning
International Federation of University Women
International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee
International Road Federation
International Road Transport Union
International Touring Alliance
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
International Union of Architects
International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy
International Union of Public Transport
World Energy Council
World LPG Forum
World Organization of Building Officials

ROSTER

Committee for International Co-operation of National Research in Demography
European Advisory Council for Technology Trade
European Confederation of Agriculture
European Council of Chemical Manufacturers' Federations
European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association
Federation of European Manufacturers of Friction Materials
Friends of the Earth
International Commission on Illumination
International Container Bureau
International Data Exchange Association
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
International Federation of Automatic Control
International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
International Federation of Operational Research Societies
International Federation of Robotics
International Gas Union
International Institute for Environment and Development
International Iron and Steel Institute
International Motorcycle Manufacturers' Association
International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers
International Real Estate Federation
International Union of Building Centres
International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
International Union of Tenants
Transfrigoroute International
World Mining Congress

Other non-governmental organizations

Association professionnelle des producteurs européens d'acier
Central Dispatching Office of the Unified Power Systems
Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organizations in Europe of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Council of Bureaux (Motor Vehicle Insurance)
Euro-Mediterranean Seismological Centre
European Association for Population Studies
European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries
European Committee for Standardization
European Coil Coating Association
European Co-ordinating Council for the Development of Performance Tests for Lubricants and Engine Fuels
European Environmental Bureau
European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics
European Fertilizers Manufacturers' Association
European Secretariat of Manufacturers of Light Metal Packages
European Syndicate of Steel Drums
European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization
European Union of Coachbuilders
Federation of Canadian Demographers

Other non-governmental organizations (cont.)

Hazardous Materials Advisory Council
International Article Numbering Association
International Environmental Bureau
International Federation of Building and Woodworkers
International Federation of Information Processing
International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
International Railway Transport Committee
International Real Property Union
International Union of Railways
International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures
South East Asia Iron and Steel Institute
Union of the Natural Gas Industries in Europe
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
World Fire Statistics Centre
World Resources Institute